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Letter dated 17 February 2006 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing to request the Security Council to extend an invitation to the Group of 77 and China to participate in the public meeting on management (procurement) to be held in the Security Council on Wednesday, 22 February 2006.

Like the Non-Aligned Movement, we wish to reiterate our concern over the continuing encroachment by the Security Council on the functions and powers of the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council through addressing issues that traditionally fall within the competence of the latter Organs, and over the attempts to enter the areas of norm-setting and establishment of definitions, which fall within the purview of the Assembly. For the Security Council to discuss such matters as procurement is contrary to Article 24 of the Charter, which spells out the primary responsibility of the Council.

However, owing to the well-known efforts of the Group of 77 and China to support the efforts of the Secretary-General to enhance accountability and transparency in procurement and other management practices, we believe that it would be important for our Group to participate in the public meeting. Our participation has become necessary in the light of the misperceptions and accusations that have been made against the Group of 77 and China on these matters.

I would be pleased to be advised of the decision of the Council on the preceding request at its earliest convenience to allow the Group to prepare for this public meeting.

I shall be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council and have it circulated as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Dumisani S. **Kumalo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa
Chairman of the Group of 77

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